

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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R 161543Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1459

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 0519

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN IRRITATION AT PLO

REF: CAIRO 0412; BEIRUT 431

SUMMARY. RECENT SNIDE COMMENTS BY PLO LEADERS ABOUT EGYPTIAN READINESS TO SACRIFICE ARAB UNITY TO GAIN SEPARATE PEACE HAVE INCURRED RESENTMENT OF POLITICALLY SENSITIVE EGYPTIANS FROM SADAT ON DOWN. EGYPTIANS, MORE AND MORE AWARE THAT THEIR ECONOMIC TROUBLES STEM FROM EFFORT ASSIST PALESTINIANS, ARE IN NO MOOD BE PATIENT WITH INSINUATIONS OF GOE IMMINENT SELL OUT IN SINAI COMING FROM PLO, SYRIA, LIBYA, OR USSR. SOVIETS ARE BELIEVED TO BE ENCOURAGING PLO'S "CAMPAIGN OF DOUBT". END SUMMARY.

1. OFFICIAL GOE IRRITATION WITH PLO AS REPORTED CAIRO REFTEL IS ECHOED IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH EGYPTIAN CONTACTS. LOCAL ARAB JOURNALISTS, IN PARTICULAR, HAVE POINTED OUT TO US RECENT STATEMENTS MADE BY YASIR ABD RABBO, AND ARAFAT'S RECENT  
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LE MONDE AND ANWAR INTERVIEWS, IN WHICH HE CHARGED THAT

EGYPT (CONTRARY TO GOE DISCLAIMERS) HAS RECEIVED USG-GOI SECOND STATE DISENGAGEMENT PLAN, AS HAS GOJ. WE ALSO NOT VOICE OF PALESTINE REPORT OF RADIO INDIA INTERVIEW WITH ARAFAT IN WHICH LATTER CLAIMED AMERICAN PLAN HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO EGYPT AND JORDAN (FBIS TA 141957). LIBYANS ALSO SEEM TO BE SLINGING MUD AT SADAT'S ARABISM, JUDGING BY JAN 13 AL-SAFIR CHARGE THAT GOE IS ENDEAVORING ENSURE ARAB APPROVAL OF "SEPARATE SOLUTION". (FBIS BE 130056)

2. GOE HAS INSTRUCTED PRESS TO DEFEND IT AGAINST CHARGES THAT EGYPT SEEKS SEPARATE PEACE, OR IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING SUCH PROPOSALS AS 12 YEAR CESSATION OF MILITARY OPERATIONS. ENTHUSIASM WITH WHICH EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS HAVE GONE TO GOE'S DEFENSE RELECTS DEEP DESIRE HERE FOR SECOND STATE WITHDRAWAL WITH OR WITHOUT MOVEMENT ON OTHER FRONTS, JUST AS LONG AS ISRAELIS EVACUATE ABU RODEIS OIL FIELDS AND SINAI PASSES. PRESS LAST FEW DAYS HAS CONTAINED LIVELY DENUNCIATIONS OF PALESTINIAN MISCHIEF MAKING, BUT UNTIL JAN 16 STOPPED SHORT OF CALLING PALESTINIANS BY THEIR NAMES; THEY WERE "CERTAIN COREIGN QUARTERS".

3. THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, GUMHURIYYA EDITORIAL JAN 14 DENOUNCED "REPORTS" OF GOE READINESS SIGN AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL, ON ISRAELI TERMS, AS UNFOUNDED AND REGRETTABLE, AND AN "EFFORT TO CONFUSE WHICH IS REJECTED" (BY ALL CLEAR HEADED ARABS). AHRAH JAN 15 CONDEMNED "CAMPAIGNS OF DOUBT" LAUNCHED AGAINST EGYPT WHICH HAS EXPENDED MORE RESOURCES THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY FOR SAKE OF ARABISM. MUSA SABRI JAN 15 IN AKHBAR CALLED RUMORS OF 12 YEAR MILITARY FREEZE AND OF JORDANIAN AND EGYPTIAN WITHDRAWAL PLANS "DISGUSTING", IN VIEW HEAVY EGYPTIAN SACRIFICES ON BEHALF ARAB WORLD. SOURCES OF RUMORS ARE KNOWN, HE ADDS, AND THEIR PURPOSES UNDERSTOOD.

4. ON JAN 16, HOWEVER, PRESS COMMENTATORS BEGAN TO NAME NAMES-- ARAFAT, SYRIAN MININFO, MOSCOW--AND TO ADD LIBYA TO EGYPTIAN BLACKLIST. AHRAH AND AKHBAR EDITORIALS CONDEMN "STRANGE" DOUBTS CAST BY ARAFAT ON EGYPT'S FOREIGN POLICY. MUSA SABRI DECLARES FURTHER SINAI WITHDRAWAL SHOULD BE WELCOMED BY SARG AND PALESTINAINS. IT WOULD NOT MEAN FINAL SETTLEMENT AND "WOULD NOT TRANSFORM ISSUE INTO ONE OF BORDERS AS STATED BY SARG MININFO". IT IS "SHAMEFUL"

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THAT HEROIC EGYPT SHOULD BE ACCUSED OF GULLIBILITY. SABRI ALSO TAKES CUT AT MOSCOW'S APPARENT SUPPORT OF ANTI-GOE CAMPAIGN OF DOUBT; IZVESTIA, HE SAYS, REPORTED SIMILAR VIEWS (E.E., DOUBTING EGYPTIAN ARABISM). LIBYANS DO NOT ESCAPE SCOLDING EITHER. TWO EDITORIALS IN AKHBAR JAN 16 CRITICIZE ARAB LEADER (CLEARLY QADHAIFI): "IN GOD'S NAME LEAVE US ALONE; DO NOT FORCE US TO BEGIN AGAIN WHAT HAS CAUSED OUR POVERTY (I.E., WAR)".

5. MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, PRESS OFFICE PROVIDED INFO FOR JAN 15 FRONTPAGE STORIES, WHICH DECLARED GOE HAS CLEARLY EXPLAINED TO PLO THAT EGYPT'S RELATIONS WITH RESISTANCE IS STRATEGIC, AND THAT EGYPT IS DETERMINED SAFEGUARD THE ARAB CAUSE AND PALESTINIAN INTEREST. (COMMENT: THE DISCRIMINATING READER UNDERSTAND THIS TO MEAN THAT GOE NEEDS NO ADVICE FROM PLO ON HOW TO HANDLE THESE MATTERS.) LOCAL PRESS ALSO CONTINUES TO REPORT ARAFAT IS EXPECTED HERE SOON.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY BEIRUT'S ANALYSIS OF PLO FEAR OF BETRAYAL BY GOE (BEIRUT 431) IS, IN OUR VIEW, RIGHT ON TARGET. AS BEIRUT POINTS OUT, PLO CAMPAIGN TO KEEP SADAT ON PLO DEFINED TRACK SEEMS ALREADY TO HAVE BEGUN. EGYPTIANS, HOWEVER, ARE IN NO MOON TO SYMPATHIZE WITH PALESTINIAN APPREHENSIONS, ESPECIALLY WHEN EXPRESSING SO JARRINGLY AND PUBLICLY AS BY ARAFAT. WITH EACH PASSING DAY, ECONOMIC SITUATION HERE SLIPS DOWN ANOTHER NOTCH, AND SADAT'S NEED FOR MORALE-BOOSTING SECOND STAGE WITHDRAWAL INCREASES. FURTHER, EGYPTIANS ARE SUFFERING ECONOMIC AUSTERITY IN LARGE PART BECAUSE OF PALESTINIANS, AND DEEPLY RESENT BEING TICKED OFF FOR ALLEGED SUB-STANDARD ARABISM.

7. THESE VIEWS ARE WIDELY HELD HERE BY POLITICALLY AWARE EGYPTIANS, AND WERE FORCIBLY EXPRESSED TO SENATOR PERCY JAN 15 BY PRESIDENT SADAT, FAHMY, SPEAKER MAR'I, WHO DECRIED MALICIOUS ACTIVITY OF CERTAIN PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS AND SAW SOVIET HAND IN ANTI-GOE CAMPAIGN.  
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